

Last Sept I contacted West Nile Virus at Hanford in Benton County ~~during morning stretching exercises on the grass in the 200 West Area. There were several days that we moved to the asphalt because the mosquitoes were so bad.~~ I developed encephalitis and spent approximately 10 days in the hospital of which I do not remember much of what went on and another month in therapy. The week I got out of the hospital a woman in Yakima County died from West Nile Virus. I returned to work in January, after being out for four months on short term disability. I still have lingering effects which include numbness in my right arm and a plugged head and head pressures. These will hopefully someday go away, as I was told it often takes about one year for most people to recover and return to work. I have read that some neurological conditions never go away. I was told by the infectious disease doctor that I can still be infected with West Nile Virus, so I will be wearing mosquito repellent when I am outside during mosquito season. For that reason I am not concerned about myself, but I am concerned for my fellow statesmen who are not aware of the hazard that is in our area.

There was a dramatic rise in West Nile Virus cases in 2009. Before 2009 there were 6 human cases of West Nile Virus in the State of Washington. In 2009 there were 37 human cases. Before 2009 there were 56 cases of horses or other mammals and in 2009 there were 73 cases of horses and other mammals. With the mild winter we are having, the amount of mosquitoes could be a lot worse in 2010. Statistically approximately 80% of humans who contract West Nile have no symptoms, 20% have flu-like symptoms for 1-2 weeks and less than 1% develops encephalitis, meningitis, paralysis, or death. The bad news is that a large number of people in our state are still susceptible to developing the bad symptoms, and will at a minimum be out of work for 4 months to one year, and at the worst may become a fatality. Lost work days for the 20% who have flu-like symptoms could be a significant cost to companies and the State of Washington. *LIVES ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN COSTS BUT* *TOURISM WILL DECREASE SIGNIFICANTLY BECAUSE OF UNDESIRABLE MOSQUITOES WHICH WILL HAVE A SEVERE COST IMPACT ON THE STATE* As you might expect I have some passion about this, and I decided I must do everything possible to keep a fatality from occurring. I do not want to read in the paper that someone has died from West Nile Virus and I had not brought this issue to the forefront. If the permit stays as written, severe reduction in mosquito control will most likely lead to severe increase in West Nile Virus cases in our state.

I urge the DOE to change the permit to read "The Permittee is authorized to discharge incidental amounts of adulticides and their residues to waters of the state for nuisance and vector mosquito control."

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